

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY SEEKS TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION FROM OTHER STATES**  
*EFFORTS CRITICAL TO KEEPING NORTH CAROLINA AIR CLEAN*

**RALEIGH** – At the direction of Gov. Mike Easley, North Carolina filed a petition today calling for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to require major reductions of air pollution in 13 upwind states. Reducing these emissions will substantially improve air quality in North Carolina.

The petition, filed by Attorney General Roy Cooper pursuant to Section 126 of the Clean Air Act, calls for the EPA to require cuts in ozone- and particle-forming emissions from power plants in Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

“We have already taken unprecedented steps to reduce emissions in North Carolina, but air pollution does not respect state boundaries,” Gov. Mike Easley said. “Winds are transporting pollution from other states into North Carolina communities that face air quality challenges. The time has come for EPA to level the playing field and make other states take responsibility for their contributions to this problem.”

The General Assembly has enacted several laws aimed at substantially reducing emissions from coal-fired power plants and motor vehicles – the major sources of ozone-, particle- and haze-forming pollution in North Carolina.

In 2002, Easley led the fight for passage of the landmark Clean Smokestacks Act, which requires power plants to reduce by three-fourths their emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulfur dioxide (SO2) during the next five to 10 years. NOx is a key contributor to ozone, haze, particle pollution and acid rain. SO2 is the key contributor to particle pollution, haze and acid rain.

Other recent legislation expands the vehicle emissions testing program from nine to 48 counties, and requires cleaner-burning gasoline and diesel fuel statewide by 2006.

Ozone is an extremely reactive form of oxygen that is unhealthy to breathe and damages trees and crops. Fine particles include a mixture of pollutants, primarily sulfates, that cause much of the haze that obscures views in the mountains and other scenic areas.

For more information about air quality issues in North Carolina, visit the N.C. Division of Air Quality’s web site at [www.ncair.org/](http://www.ncair.org/).

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